(c) Indian airlines (including Alliance Air) and Air India incur an estimated expenditure of Rs. 7 crores and Rs. 19 crores respectively per month on ground handling.

(d) Does not arise in view of reply to part (a).

Agreement with foreign Partners

1345. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Karnataka Government has brought to the notice of the Ministry of Civil Aviation certain provisions of the Airports Authority of India Act, which are coming in the way of finalizing the agreement with foreign partners for Bangalore International Airport; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Ministry is considering requisite amendments in the AAI Act, 1994 to facilitate private sector investment in greenfield airports.

Air Services on Delhi-Raipur-Jabalpur Route

†1346. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Airlines has formulated any scheme to survey the area for starting air services in future to Bilaspur, the important city of Chhattisgarh and Jagdalpur, the tribal dominated area of district Bastar;

(b) whether Indian Airlines is planning to start regular air service from Bhopal, the capital of Madhya Pradesh to Raipur, the capital of Chhattisgarh; and

(c) the reasons for closing down the air services all of a sudden from Delhi to Raipur *via* Jabalpur?

THE MINISRTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Alliance Air was operating thrice a week Boeing 737 service to Jabalpur on the route Delhi-Raipur-Jabalpur-Delhi. Due to drop in passenger

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

demand, the frequency of this flight was reduced to twice a week w.e.f. Ist November, 2001. Subsequently the airlink between Raipur to Jabalpur had to be withdrawn *w.e.f.* 25th March, 2002 due to continued poor loads, however, link between Jabalpur-Delhi was maintained by operation of thrice a week Domier service on the route Delhi-Gwalior-Jabalpur and return.

Raipur continuer to be linked with Delhi by a daily Boeing 737 on the route Delhi-Nagpur-Raipur and return.

Upgradation of Aircrafts in I.A.

1347. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a requirement of upgrading the current fleet of aircrafts under the Indian Airlines;

(b) if so, the what extent and the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) when the aircrafts were upgraded last time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (c) The Board of Directors of Indian Airlines had in March, 2002 approved a proposal for acquisition of 43 aircraft at a net project cost of Rs. 10,089 crores for replacement of existing fleet of Boeing 737 and Airbus A-300 and for augmentation of capacity during the period 2003-04 to 2007-08. The Project Report submitted by indian Airlines is under active consideration of the Government.

(d) The last upgradation of fleet carried out by Indian Airlines was during the period 1989—94 by induction of 30 Airbus A-320 aircraft.

New Legislation on Airport Security

1348. PROF. RAM DEO BHANDARY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that provisions made in the Civil Aviation Act to check security lapses at various airports through out the country are not effective;